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Illinois
Environmental
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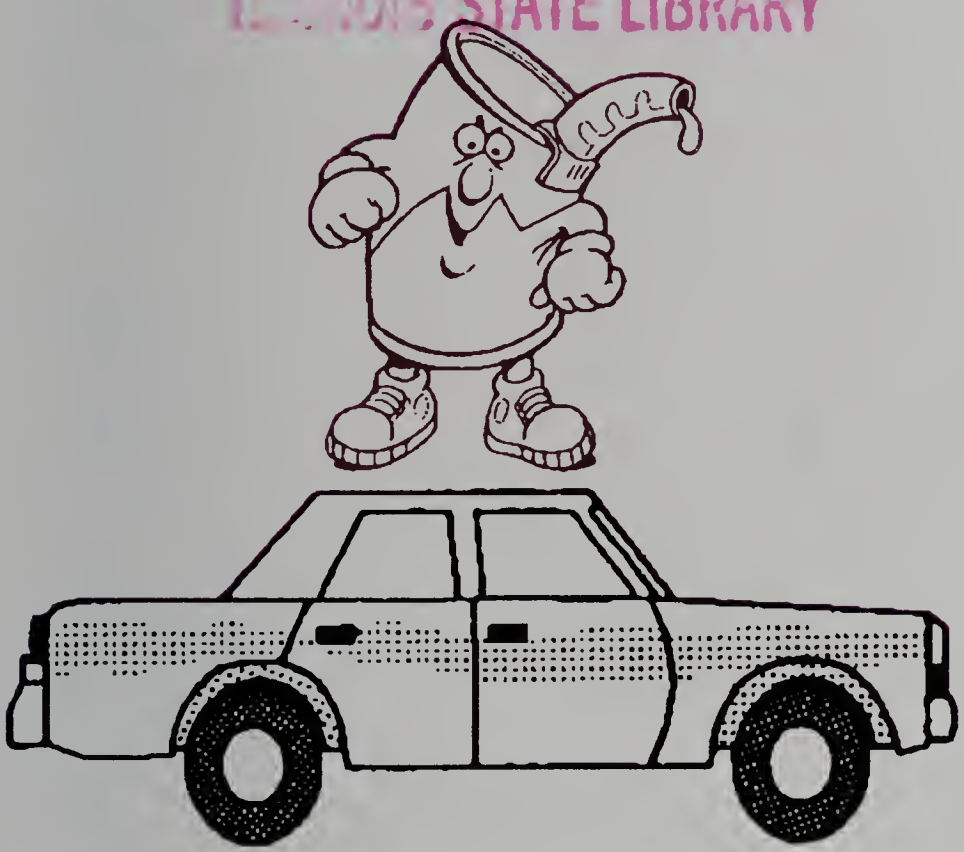
April 1997

Household Guide To Automotive And Small Engine Product Disposal

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Many dwellings contain hazardous products used to maintain gasoline-powered equipment and vehicles. Proper use and storage of fuels, lubricants, antifreeze and related materials presents few problems, but their improper disposal can seriously endanger human health and the environment.

Each year in Illinois, do-it-yourselfers drain millions of gallons of motor oil from crankcases of cars, trucks, lawnmowers, snowblowers and other machines. Much of it they dump down drains or into



trash cans. This fugitive oil can overwhelm the safeguards built into sewage systems and sanitary landfills, contaminating surface and underground water supplies we depend on for consumption and recreation.

These environmental threats prompted the Illinois General Assembly to ban used oil from landfills. This law (Sec. 21.6, Illinois Environmental Protection Act, effective July 1, 1996) forbids anyone to place liquid used oil in municipal trash collections. Excluded from the ban are used oil filters, empty containers that previously held oil, and rags and absorbents use to clean up oil spills.

Fortunately, used motor oil and other automotive products are easy to recycle or dispose of safely. Here's how:

USED MOTOR OIL

Many automobile dealers, service stations and quick-lube businesses accept used motor oil from do-it-yourselfers. So do many community recycling centers. Some firms may charge a fee to help offset

their costs of recycling or disposal.

If you cannot find someone to take your used motor oil, the Illinois EPA can provide phone numbers of people in your area who maintain lists of oil recyclers.

Call the Agency at 217-785-8604.

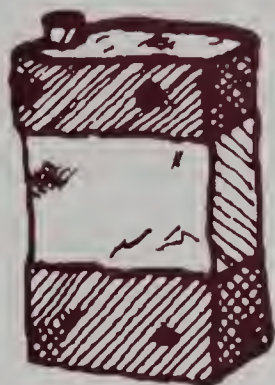
ANTIFREEZE

Some municipal sewage systems may allow residents to pour diluted antifreeze down the drain. Ask your waste water treatment facility if it can process antifreeze, and in what quantities. Obey their instructions. Unless told otherwise, dilute the antifreeze with equal amounts of water before flushing the mixture down the drain.

This procedure should not be used with septic systems. Instead, ask local automobile dealers, service stations or recycling centers for disposal options. Otherwise, safely store waste antifreeze until you can take it to an Illinois EPA household hazardous-waste collection.

GASOLINE

A little planning can prevent lengthy storage of gasoline, thereby reducing opportunities for it to go stale or become contaminated. Buy gasoline in quantities you know you will use in a single season or less. Before storing your lawnmower, tiller, snowblower or other equipment, run the engine until all fuel is exhausted. Or add gasoline stabilizer to the tank.



Stale gasoline can be rejuvenated by adding fresh fuel to old. Most engines will burn new/old blends safely. Check your owner's manual for recommendations or prohibitions.

LEAD ACID BATTERIES

Cars, trucks, motorcycles and other vehicles use rechargeable lead-acid batteries. Over time these batteries deteriorate and must be replaced. By law,



firms that sell new lead-acid batteries must accept spent batteries for proper recycling or disposal.

This law (Sec. 22.23, Illinois Environmental Protection Act, effective Sept. 1, 1990) also bans lead-acid batteries from municipal-waste landfills and incinerators.

PROTECTIVE FINISHES

Before discarding liquid or paste car waxes, allow these products to solidify by placing opened containers in a well-ventilated area away from pets, children and potential heat sources. The dried material can be set out with your regular garbage.

OTHER AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

Transmission, hydraulic and brake fluids; and body fillers, putties and epoxy resins; should not be discarded with general refuse. Ask friends, neighbors or relatives if they can use these products. If not, store them safely until you can take them to a household hazardous-waste collection.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Illinois EPA conducts a dozen or more household hazardous-waste collections each spring and fall.



The collections are free, and are held on Saturdays for greatest convenience. All wastes are handled, transported and disposed of

properly by an Agency contractor.

To learn the locations and dates of upcoming collections, or how to urge local governments to cosponsor future events, call 217-785-8604.



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GENERAL TIPS FOR HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

- ✓ Buy only the quantities you need.
- ✓ Keep products in their original containers.
Store them according to label directions.
- ✓ Avoid skin contact and vapors.
- ✓ **NEVER** mix different products.
Violent chemical reactions may occur.
- ✓ If products exceed your needs, ask friends,
neighbors, or charitable organizations if
they want them.
- ✓ Always dispose of these products in an approved
manner, or take them to an Illinois EPA
household hazardous-waste collection.

For more information contact:

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